

REMARKS

The Office Action has been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 5, 9, 11, 12 and 15-18 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 5, 8, 11, 12 and 15-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With due respect to the examiner, the examiner has misinterpreted the teachings of the Sierra-Honigmann et al. reference. The Examiner states that the leptin response was quite different between normal rats and fa/fa Zucker fatty rats, which the examiner alleges to be analogous to ob-/- mice. This position is incorrect as the fa/fa Zucker rat model is the opposite of (not analogous to!) the ob/ob mouse model. Whereas the ob/ob mouse lacks leptin, the fa/fa rat lacks the leptin receptor, as evidenced by the Iida et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* 224:597-604 (1996) reference attached hereto. It is therefore clear to those of skill in the art that injection of leptin to such a rat that lacks leptin receptors will do absolutely nothing, except possibly produce local irritation at the injection site. Furthermore, because of the absence of leptin receptors, these fa/fa Zucker rats try to overcome the

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lack of response to leptin by overexpressing leptin. See Ogawa et al., *J. Clin. Invest.* 96:1647-1652 (1995).

Based on the above distinction between fa/fa Zucker fatty rats and ob/ob mice, one of skill in the art is quite enabled for the method according to the present invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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